

June 7, 2011

The tragedy of the earthquake in Japan followed by its immediate and devastating Tsunami, was a severe wake-up call to re-examine our own risk and preparedness for a similar event occurring along Los Angeles County's coastline. On March 29, 2011, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to report back on the advisability and feasibility of developing an additional level of mass notification tsunami emergency siren warning system to the County's existing mass notification warning systems.

The report was submitted to the Board offices on May 18, 2011, and consists of recommendations formulated by a Workgroup of representatives from OEM, Sheriff's Department, County Fire Department, Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the Department of Public Works. This Workgroup investigated and analyzed conventional siren operations, siren activation, and the findings of a mass notification siren warning system test conducted by the Sheriff in 2007 in Marina Del Rey. They also reported that CalEMA is currently conducting a survey of all California coastal area Operational Areas on the use of siren warning systems.

Based on their investigation, the Workgroup recommends that the advisability and feasibility of developing a Tsunami Emergency Siren Warning System requires an

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evaluation by subject matter experts (SMEs) in the fields of siren systems, acoustical requirements, environmental impact study requirements, and electronic warning systems operations, in order to assess and determine the actual cost of planning, deploying and maintaining such a system. This evaluation should also include a cost breakdown and comparison for the deployment of a siren warning system for either the unincorporated county coastal areas or deploying along the entire L.A. County coastline.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that upon completion of CalEMA's survey, the CEO/OEM proceed with an evaluation by SMEs and report back to the Board the results of the evaluation, including the estimated costs and scope of a "Project", along with identifying potential funding sources to implement a Tsunami Emergency Siren Warning System in Los Angeles County.

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